

Annisquam, Feb. 25th '41

Dear Brother May,

Your letter dated Feb 19th has just come to hand, & without any delay, I can render my answer. Under other circumstances, I should probably choose to take a longer time for reflection than I now ~~you~~ need. In fact, I have already thought of the subject, in its various bearings, & I have concluded, ^{that it is my duty to withdraw in a measure from active labors in the cause, and} to spend the coming season in study. I feel that for me to engage in the field now, when I need to spend some months, at least, in study, would hardly be good policy. When I was thus engaged, I greatly felt the ~~want~~ ^{want} of a better preparation, & I left the active combat, for the express purpose of ~~spending~~ devoting my time to mental cultivation. My tools need sharpening, & when I have thoroughly ground them, I intend to throw myself into the work, with new energy. I have maturely considered the matter, & asked the advice of those who are my seniors in age & experience, & this is my conclusion. Did I not feel that duty demanded my attention peculiarly, in another direction, it would be gratifying to my feelings to engage in your country, in an effort to rouse the dormant spirit of abolitionism. Gladly would I give my feeble powers to aid your exertions, & would ask no other compensation, than what you offer. I am acquainted with one or two young men who are thinking of engaging in the A. S. reform & I will make known your desires to them, if you wish, & I think it probable that you might get their assistance. They are young

ministers, who have preached for 4 or 5 years, & have
determined to volunteer to work in this department
of labor for the coming year. They are ~~of the~~
devoted men & though they have not practised ~~extensive~~
paradeous lecturing, I think they would do good.

Mr Leach of this place, & Mr Allen of Hanson are the
~~men I refer to~~ ^{men I refer to}. Wishing your efforts abundant success.

I remain Yours for the oppressed

Chas. Burlington

The

Amisquamit Paid 10
Feb 25

Rev. Samuel May
Leicester
Mass.

Single & paid